

# H1N1 Flu: Perspective of Healthcare

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# Preparing for Years

- Regional healthcare coalitions developed
- Planning, training, and exercises for Pandemic Flu since 2007
- Trained in Incident Command and National Incident Management System “language”

# Hospitals Enhancing Preparations

- Increasing stockpiles of masks, gloves, gowns, linen, and other supplies
- Revised patient and visitor flow patterns
- Enhanced communications with local healthcare partner agencies

# What Hospital Learned from Last Year

- Disaster planning makes a difference
- Leadership by Washington State Department of Health to meet needs of Washington was very important
- WSHA has important role in communications with hospitals – systems are in place
- What we need in Washington might be different than what is designed at a national level
- Hospitals were planning one step ahead of what they were seeing...just in case

# Healthcare Worker Immunizations

- Even with the best campaigns, vaccination rates among staff are 50 to 60 percent
- Studies show healthcare workers go to work when they are sick, which puts patients at risk
- Virginia Mason Medical Center has adopted mandatory flu vaccine requirement and achieved a 99.25 vaccination rate
- Some states are adopting regulations requiring healthcare workers to be vaccinated (Example: NY)
- Many Washington hospitals requesting Washington State adopt regulations